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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION  
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-7367

Mr. Steven J. Faryan  
Deputy Project Officer  
Emergency Response Section  
Western Response Unit  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
11th Floor  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

September 5, 1989

TAT-05-G2-01292



Re: Albion - Sheridan Township Landfill, Albion, Michigan,  
TDD#5-8907-33

Dear Mr. Faryan:

On July 19, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) tasked the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to review the Albion - Sheridan Township Landfill (Albion), a National Priorities List (NPL) site, for a possible removal action. After review of the available files, and interviews with state and local officials, the TAT conducted a site investigation on August 15, 1989.

The Albion site is a closed landfill located at 13355 29-Mile Road, 1 mile east of Albion, Calhoun County, Michigan (Figure 1). The site is situated in a predominantly residential and agricultural area. The topography of the site varies from flat to rolling hills with a 15 foot relief. The landfill was covered with sand and gravel and heavy vegetative growth. Soils and gravel overlie the Marshal Sandstone Formation. Reportedly, the owner stated that a natural clay layer was at the bottom of the landfill with a sand layer above it; however, given the geology in the area and well logs, the clay layer may not be continuous. The landfill is not fenced, but a locked gate restricts vehicular access to the site.

An estimated 13,500 people obtain drinking water from public and private wells within a 3 mile radius of the site. There are six municipal wells supplying water to the residents of Albion with the closest municipal well approximately 1 mile from the site. The municipal wells and area private wells drain water from the Marshal Sandstone aquifer with well depths ranging from 64-350 feet. The closest residence is approximately 200 feet west of the site. According to Betty Michalski of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) residential well sampling has never been conducted around the site.

Roy F. Weston, Inc.

SPILL PREVENTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

In Association with ICF Technology Inc., C.C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C., Resource Applications, Inc.,  
Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., and Environmental Toxicology International, Inc.

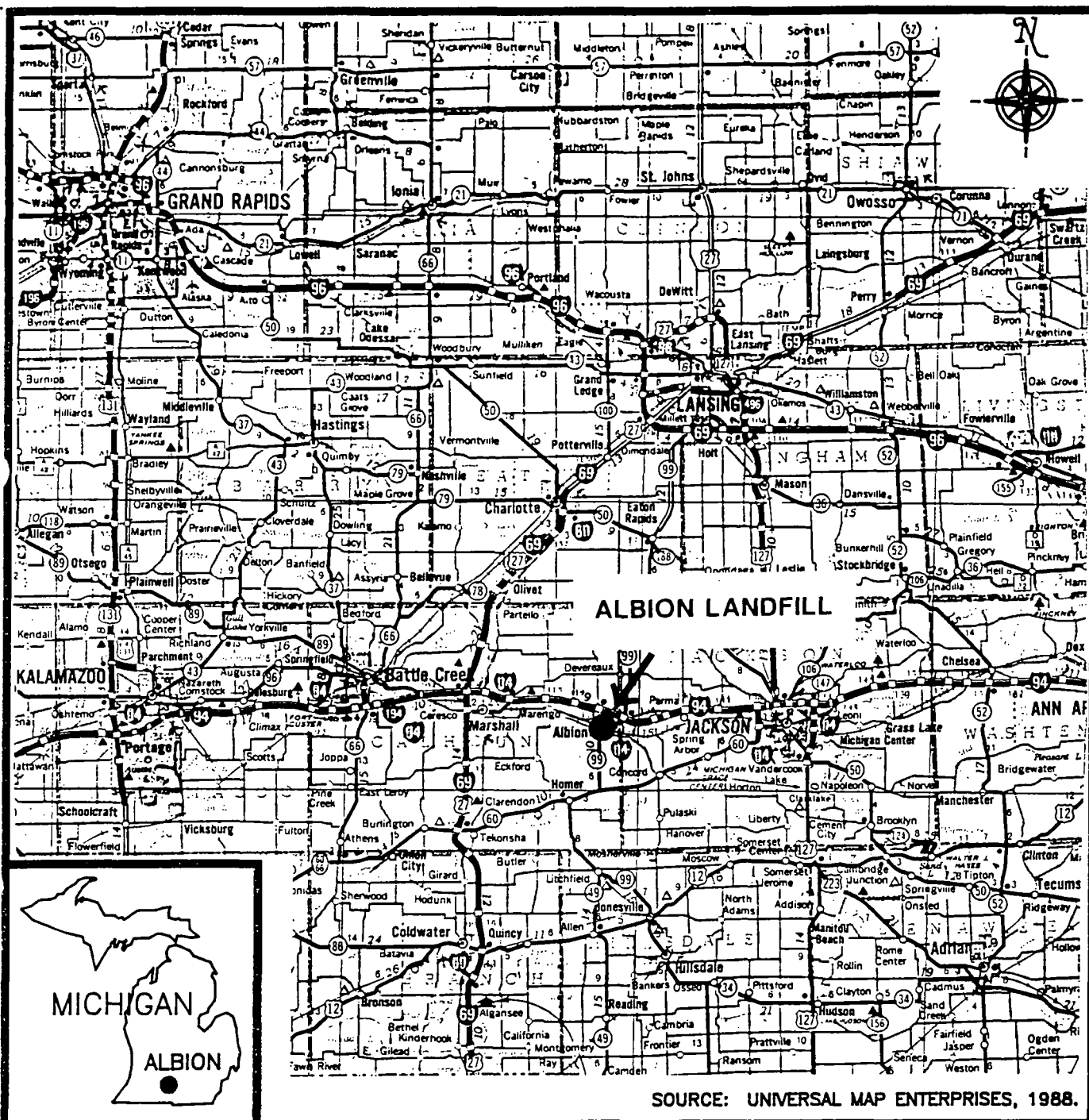


FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION MAP  
ALBION LANDFILL  
ALBION, MICHIGAN

SCALE: 1 INCH = 14.5 MILES

**WESTON**  
MANAGERS DESIGNERS/CONSULTANTS

DRAWN BY

M. BALAZS

DATE

8-29-89

PCS #

2323

APPROVED BY

R. MEHL

DATE

8-29-89

TDD #

5-8907-33

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The 30 acre landfill was active from 1966 until closure in 1981. The privately owned landfill accepted municipal refuse and industrial wastes from Albion and nearby Sheridan Township. Reportedly, the facility accepted 1,975 cubic yards of sludge, and 35,000 drums of spent solvents and paint wastes. Samples collected by the MDNR in 1980 indicated that the sludge contained heavy metals and cyanide.

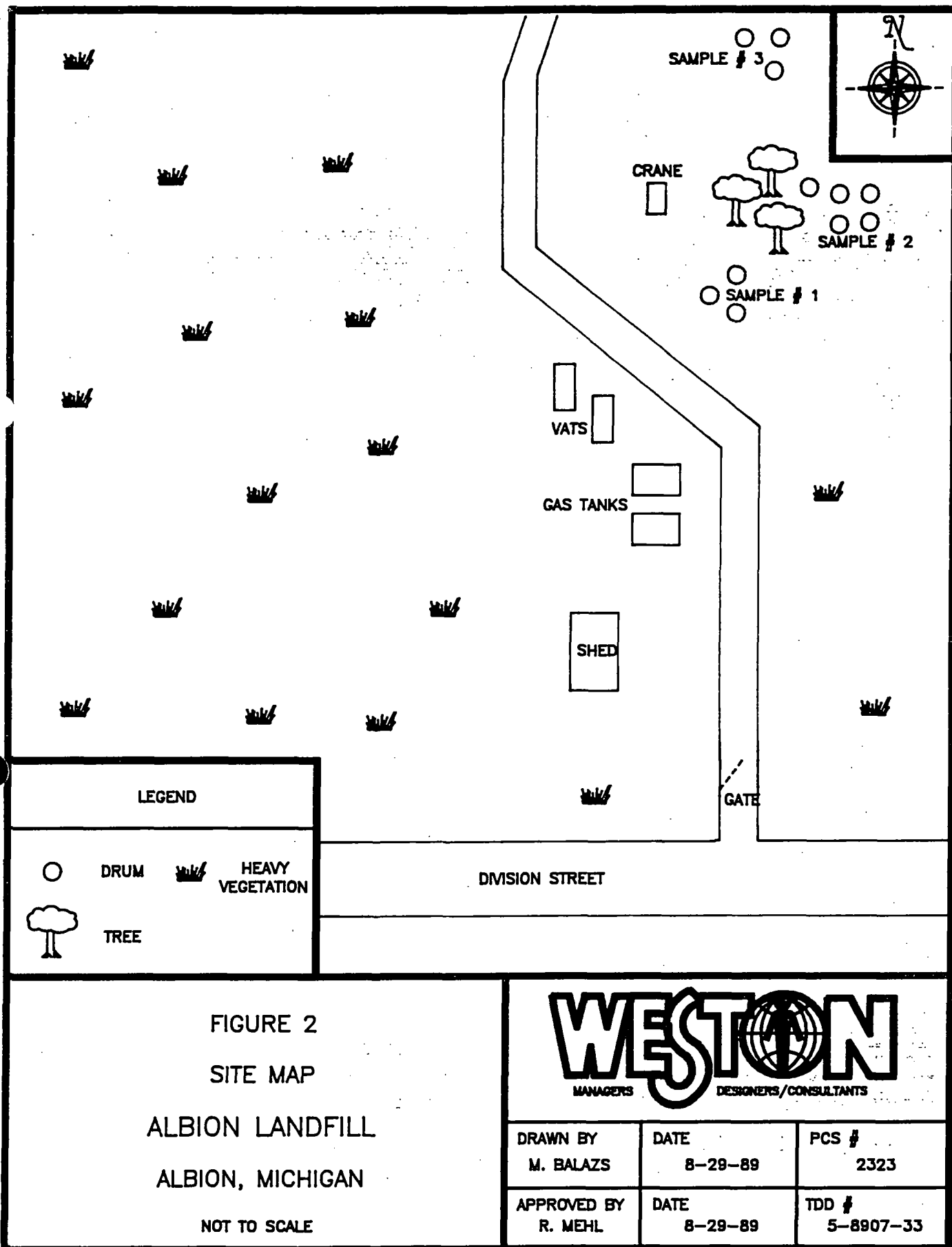
On August 15, 1989, TAT members Richard Mehl, Steven Bosko, and Nikhil Kumaranayagam accompanied Ms. Michalski of the MDNR on an investigation of the Albion site. Air monitoring conducted with a Tritector-combustible gas indicator, organic vapor analyzer (OVA), and radiation meter revealed no readings above background levels. The TAT observed approximately 26 55-gallon drums and 15 5-gallon pails, many containing what appeared to be grease and paint wastes. The TAT also observed two rubber-lined vats containing vegetative growth, two partially buried fuel tanks, one empty 8,000 gallon oil-storage tank and several half-buried drums protruding through the landfill surface.

The TAT collected two drum and one sludge sample from various areas of the site (Figure 2). Sample #1 was grease-like material from a drum labeled as industrial grease; Sample #2, was a hard paint-sludge material from an unlabeled drum; and Sample #3 was a grease-like material that was spread on the ground. The samples were analyzed for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) parameters, under TAT Analytical Services TDD# 5-8908-L5.

The analytical results of the three samples did not indicate that the waste were hazardous based on RCRA characteristics; however, the potential for drums containing hazardous wastes still exists at the site.

Conditions observed at the Albion site that may be considered to warrant a removal action as outlined in Section 300.65(b)(2) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) include:

- o Potential exposure to hazardous substances by nearby populations or animals;
- o Hazardous substances in drums and tanks that may pose a threat of release;





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- o High levels of hazardous substances in soils at or near the surface that may migrate; and
- o Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems.

Should you have any questions or require additional information please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

ROY F. WESTON, INC.

*Richard H. Mehl, Jr.*  
Richard H. Mehl, Jr.  
Environmental Engineer

*Phillip C. Wicklein*  
Phillip C. Wicklein  
Technical Assistance Team  
Team Leader, Region V

RHM:dn



PHOTO: 1  
 SITE: ALBION LANDFILL  
 DESCRIPTION: UNDERGROUND TANK  
 DATE/TIME: AUGUST 15, 1989/1330  
 PHOTOGRAPHER: R. MEHL *RM*



PHOTO: 2  
 SITE: AL  
 DESCRIPTION: THREE EMPTY DRUMS  
 DATE/TIME: AUGUST 15, 1989/1335  
 PHOTOGRAPHER: R. MEHL *RM*



PHOTO: 3  
 SITE: AL  
 DESCRIPTION: EMPTY 5000 GAL TANK  
 DATE/TIME: AUGUST 15, 1989/1340  
 PHOTOGRAPHER: R. MEHL



PHOTO: 4  
 SITE: AL  
 DESCRIPTION: DRUMS AND DEBRIS DUMPED HERE  
 DATE/TIME: AUGUST 15, 1989/1345  
 PHOTOGRAPHER: R. MEHL